

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 250745Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 312

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MADRAS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 3604

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CE

SUBJ: REPORTED REQUEST TO U.S. FOR ARMS AID FOR
SRI LANKA DISSIDENTS

REF: (A) STATE 148361; (B) COLOMBO 1986

1. ON JUN 25, I INVITED SRI LANKA HIGH COMMISSIONER
K. L. ALAGIYAWANNA TO THE EMBASSY AND TOLD HIM THAT
LAST NOVEMBER A MAN, PRESUMABLY TAMIL FROM SRI LANKA,
CAME TO THE EMBASSY AND ASKED TO SEE THE AMBASSADOR.
HE WAS REFERRED TO A POLITICAL OFFICER WHOM HE TOLD
THAT HE WISHED TO SOLICIT USG SUPPORT FOR A TAMIL
SEPARATIST MOVEMENT IN SRI LANKA. THE OFFICER TOLD
HIM CATEGORICALLY THAT THE U.S. HAD FRIENDLY RELATIONS
WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA AND HAD NO INTEREST
IN ANY SEPARATIST MOVEMENT. WHEN THE MAN PERSISTED
IN ASKING TO SEE THE AMBASSADOR, OUR POLITICAL OFFICER
TOLD HIM THAT HE SPOKE FOR THE AMBASSADOR AND THAT
HE COULD TELL HIM CATEGORICALLY THAT THE AMBASSADOR
DID NOT WISH TO TALK TO HIM.

2. I EXPLAINED THAT OUR OFFICER DID NOT BELIEVE
THAT A REQUEST FOR ARMS HAD BEEN SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED,
ALTHOUGH THAT COULD HAVE BEEN IMPLIED. THE OFFICER
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NOTICED THAT AS THE MAN DEPARTED, HE WAS JOINED BY TWO

OTHER MEN, PRESUMABLY TAMIL, WHO HAD BEEN SITTING IN THE WAITING AREA. I FURTHER EXPLAINED THAT ON THE WAY OUT, THE MEN HAD ALSO TALKED BRIEFLY WITH A LOCAL EMPLOYEE OF INDIAN ORIGIN. THE OFFICER HAD REPORTED THE INCIDENT IN A BRIEF MEMORANDUM TO THE AMBASSADOR (WHO HAD OTHERWISE NOT BEEN INVOLVED) AND MYSELF, AND I HAD FRANKLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT IT. WE HAD OBVIOUSLY NOT TAKEN THE INCIDENT VERY SERIOUSLY. FINALLY, I WISHED TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM THE USG'S COMPLETE RESPECT FOR THE UNITY AND SOVEREIGNTY OF SRI LANKA AND TO STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT WE ARE NOT ANY WAY INVOLVED IN SUPPORT OF A TAMIL SEPARATIST MOVEMENT.

3. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER THANKED ME FOR MY FRANK EXPLANATION BUT GRUMBLED SLIGHTLY THAT THESE THINGS WERE VERY IMPORTANT TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND HE HOPED THAT SHOULD ANY FURTHER APPROACH BE MADE WE WOULD LET HIM KNOW. I TOLD HIM I WOULD BE ALERT TO ANY SUCH APPROACHES BEING MADE TO OUR EMBASSY BUT AVOIDED DIRECTLY COMMITTING MYSELF TO KEEPING HIM INFORMED.

4. THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ENLARGED SLIGHTLY ON HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN. HE BELIEVES THE MEN WHO CAME TO OUR EMBASSY ARE MEMBERS OF A TAMIL SEPARATIST MOVEMENT IN NORTHERN SRI LANKA. THE MOVEMENT, WHICH IS "LEFTIST" ORIENTED, IS INTERESTED IN JOINING WITH SOUTHERN INDIA IN A SEPARATE TAMIL STATE. ALTHOUGH SRI LANKA DOES NOT FEEL ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH THE COOPERATION OF EITHER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OR INDIAN STATE AUTHORITIES IN COMBATING THIS MOVEMENT, HE DID NOT WISH TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION (AS HE HAD IN OUR FIRST CONVERSATION) THAT HE BELIEVED THERE WAS ANY OFFICIAL INDIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE MOVEMENT. HE ALSO REITERATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HELD NO SUSPICIONS OF USG INVOLVEMENT.

5. THE TONE OF THE DISCUSSION WAS VERY FRIENDLY AND I BELIEVE THE HIGH COMMISSIONER LEFT FEELING HE HAD BEEN DEALT WITH HONESTLY, ALTHOUGH NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER HE WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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PROMPTLY NOTIFIED OF ANY FURTHER APPROACHES AS HE WISHED. HE SPOKE VERY WARMLY OF AMBASSADOR AND MRS. VAN HOLLEN.
DILLON

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